Miscellaneous—12-Lump sum provision for assumption of schools".

(ii) To ascertain Government's policy regarding assumption of Management of Private Schools

*Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Mr. President, I move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 under 21-Education—11—Miscellaneous—12—Lump provision for assumption of schools by Re. 1 to ascertain whether the Government have any policy regarding the assumption of management and to place before the Government certain suggestions regarding assumption of management of private schools.

I would like to get the answer on the first part mentioned here—whether Government have any policy regarding the assumption of management of private schools.

Mr. President: I think the Hon'ble Member should take advantage of this opportunity to put forward his suggestions.

*Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Sir, the subject of the supplementary demand relates to an amount that is thought necessary by the Goverument to be allowed to them for assuming management of a certain High School in Kuttur in the Mulakunnathukavu constituency. The reason which prompted Government to come before this House is stated here in the note now read out to us by the Hon'ble Minister. The central facts are that the manager, an old gentleman, has written to Government that because of his old age he is not able to run the management. The consequence follows that he will close it down. Point No. 2 mentioned in it is that the matter has been placed before the Educational Advisory Committee and they have recommended to Government that the school is a real necessity in the locality and hence the proposal. The first portion of it need not be very much looked into. An old gentleman took into his head very recently to start a high school. Now on the ground of his old age he is not able to run it and he is at liberty to close it down unless of course he has got other objects in view in placing the matter before the Government which has very suitably responded to his request as they are seen to have done here.

With regard to the assumption of the school managed by private agencies as far as the primary sshools are concerned the Hon'ble Minister during the last meeting had been pleased to say that one condition essential is that the management must be prepared to surrender free of charge the school house, the furniture and all that pertains to the school as also his management free of charge. Then when I put a question whether this condition being satisfied the management requests for assumption by Government, whether this management will be assumed, the Minister then qualified his reply by saying that each case will be decided at its own merits. Therefore the condition that free surrender of management, the school house as also the furniture is sufficient. As far as the assumption of management of primary schools is concerned, each case will be considered on its merits. What are the merits? What are the mysteries. The ways of the Government are mysterious not known to me, but only to Government. I say mysteries known to Government for the simple reason that they have not been disclosed. Now here we come to the question of assumption of management of a high school. I would like to inform this House that right down to 1946 end or rather the first half of 1946, the policy of the Government as I have been able to gleen from the various statements made by Government from time to time in answer to questions as also during the discussion of the Education Code when it was under revision by a Committee, used to be said to be one like this namely, that wherever possible managements of secondary schools will be attempted to be handed over to private agencies wherever there is such an agency; and the position of the Government till they passed orders on the recommendations of the Code Revision Committee regarding assumption of management of primary schools was that as far as possible, management of schools will be transferred to private agencies. Things have been changed for reasons best known to the authorities paying the left-handed eulogy to the management of the private school, they say that they are useful in the scheme of things, their services should not be forgotten, they should be encouraged and therefore we are not going to place our hands upon them. We shall leave the private agencies to themselves. That has been the policy as far as the primary schools are concerned. I do not think that such a policy has been laid by the Government as far as the secondary schools are concerned. What I was submitting was that I would like to get the information because I can speak more pointedly after getting this information. Now that it is not supplied, it is proper to keep it back. Upon my remarks I will take it. My submission is

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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that the policy of Government ought to be, as far as assumption of management of secondary schools is concerned is to be one of finding out suitable private agencies to hand over the management even of the existing sirkar high schools. That is my respectful submission before this House and the Minister and on the other hand at least in cases where the management are willing to surrender the management of primary schools to Government, Government must catch at the idea. Here the system is topsy-turvy. I know one of the recommendations of the Educational Advisory Committee was that as early as July last year decisions had been taken by the Committee that recommended the assumption of management of as many as 27 primary schools of which only 8 could be thought of for this year for want of funds. An amount has been incorporated in the budget, that budget has been passed to assume the management of the 8 primary schools some six months back. Not a single primary school out of the 8 has been assumed management of. In contra-distinction to that here comes a proposal from an old gentleman for a newly started IVth Form High School.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* On a point of information, Sir, may I know when it was started?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* This academic year. That is my information subject to correction. At any rate it is not more than 2 years old. In contra-distinction to what I said before to this House, here is the case of an old manager who started in memory of some person a high school. He says that he is old, he says that he is not in a position to run the school. So he requests that the Government be pleased to come to his help. If there is a real necessity irrespective of whether the management is old, young or even juvenile, the school must be assumed if there are not other private agencies. I know this area very well having represented it once and having got defeated by the present Minister for Food and Education. I know for a fact that there is a flourishing high school managed by a church 1½ miles east of the area. I am referring to the Thirur High School along the road from Trichur to Vadakkancheri. And along the Panchayat road which has been constructed by Government which I have travelled by car as well as on foot, it is a bit nearer. There is another school 3 miles distant along the public works road. The nearest in the Trichur Town is the C. M. H. School if not the Vivekodayam. Along the bus route it is only three miles. You cannot contradict remarks on these facts. If you question me I invite you to the place for a visit. On the western side Vellangans there is that great school run by the Ramakrishna Mission. It is also not more than three miles. That being the situation of the schools, the school being one that has been started only very recently is not proper to assume management. One other factor is that this is an area where there is a Government primary school and the manager of that school, I know for the fact, had been repeatedly requesting the transfer of assumption. That is run by a church under the Trichur Diocese. That Diocese have been asking the transfer of the management to him. If really there is a necessity for a school the transfer would have been effected. In these circumstances I seriously ask the Government in the light of the fact that they have no funds to take up the management of the primary schools which are prepared to surrender the management free of cost, free of everything, please come to help. When the Government has not been able to do that, for the mere asking of the old manager who started the school in memory of one of his sons Chandra, the Educational Advisory Committee has recommended the assumption. But I am sure that if they are pleased to visit the school, study the situation, study the school going population there, I am sure the Advisory Committee would not have made that recommendation. I am sure they will be wise enough to revise it. I submit that it is hazardous this wasting of public funds which are intended for better things, nobler things more important things to be spent upon this management to be assumed. Whatever be the reasons for this assumption—whatever be the reasons I emphasis that—it is not gentlemanly to go more than that. That is an area which has got very large number of voters. Even as it is to-day it is a very fruitful area. Therefore I submit, Sir, that our funds, funds that go into the coffers of the Cochin Treasury by the sweat of the hard-hit agriculturists of the State should not be frittered away like this when several things demanding attention are crying for help. First things first is the primary factor which our Ministry ought to know. I am sure that one of our Ministers knows it. Unfortunately he is not in his seat. The policy would be to surrender the management to Private Agencies. I do not lay down as dictum to be followed by Government that never shall Government assume management of secondary schools. If it is ever humanly possible not to assume the management of a properly run high school, do not go in for that. If there is really any necessity and even in cases of absolute necessity for a school in the area

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Government should take the management as a last resort. That is the policy to be followed. Government as it is constituted to-day by the popular Ministry, I do it with the greatest interest to see that the popular Ministry does not come in for criticism.

Mr. President: I ask the Hon'ble Member to bring his speech to a close.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Therefore this is the advice. Do not go in for the management of the high school if it is humanly possible for the Government of Cochin to do that. But go in for the assumption of the Primary School at least in the case of free surrender of management. That is the suggestion if you are willing to take it. Let not the money of the tax payer be frittered away.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* I will take a few minutes.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Irinjalakkuda):* There are other members to speak.

The House rose for lunch at 1-30 p.m. and re-assembled after lunch at 2-30 with the Deputy President in the Chair

VI. NOMINATION OF A MEMBER TO THE MAHARAJA'S TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE ADVISORY BOARD

Deputy President: There is an announcement that nominations for the election of a member to the Maharaja's Technological Institute Advisory Board will be received by the Secretary to the Council up to 5 p.m. on Thursday, the 6th February 1947.

VII. DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*(cont.)*

മിസ്റ്റർ ജോസ് കെ. വർഗ്ഗീസ്: ഈ ബഡ്ജറ്റോപക്ഷേപത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കാതെ എനിക്കു നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. തൃശ്ശിവപേരൂരിൽ പള്ളിവക ഒരു ലോവർസെക്കന്ററി സ്കൂൾ നടത്തിവരുന്നുണ്ട്. അതു വളരെക്കാലമായി നടന്നുവരുന്ന ഒരു സ്കൂളാണ്. ഗവൺമെണ്ടിൽനിന്ന് ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ഒരു സ്കൂൾ ഏറ്റെടുക്കണമെന്ന നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു് ഏതോ ഒരു ശുദ്ധശക്തിയുടെ പ്രേരണമൂലമാണെന്നിരുന്നാലും ഒരു സ്കൂൾ വീട്ടുകൂടാതെ ഏറ്റെടുത്തു നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ളതാണ് ഉദ്ദേശമെങ്കിൽ പള്ളിക്കാരുടെ സ്കൂൾ എടുത്താൽ മതിയായിരുന്നു. ഇതു് ഏതോ ഒരു ഗവൺമെണ്ടുദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ പെൻഷൻ പറ്റിയതിനുശേഷം അദ്ദേഹം തുടങ്ങിയതായ ഒരു സ്കൂളാണ്. ഇതു തുടങ്ങിയിട്ട് നാലഞ്ചു കൊല്ലമേ ആയിട്ടുള്ളൂ. ഹിൽപാഡി തോറ്റപ്പോൾ അതു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ തലയിൽ വെച്ചുകെട്ടിയതുപോലെ ഇതും കെട്ടിവെയ്ക്കുവെന്നല്ലാതെ ഇതിൽ വേറെ യാതൊരു ഉദ്ദേശവും ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated):* Mr. Deputy President, I am constrained to participate in the discussion at this stage merely on a point of principle before I proceed further I will be obliged if the Hon'ble Minister will kindly furnish me with the information as to whether any suggestion has been received by Government regarding the assumption of management of this High School.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* Absolutely none.

Mr. S. P. Luiz *(Nominated):* Thank you I am afraid that the policy adopted by the Government in this particular case does not warrant much of good taste and policy. On the face of the facts there are several hundreds and hundreds of educational institution that would gladly seek the assistance of the Government to hand over the management provided they are prepared to take it. I am not aware of the geographical position of the school and the schools nearby. I do not know the exact distance between them But just on point of principle namely Government assuming management of the institutions within such a limited space without any sort of gesture. I support the motion.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Food and Education):* I am extremely happy to listen to a very useful suggestion given to me by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri regarding the policy which Government ought to follow in the matter of assumption of schools. In fact several recommendations are pending before the Government regarding the assumption of management of primary schools. The permanent Director of Public Instruction has made recommendations to assume several primary schools by Government, and those recommendations have been scrutinised by the Educational Advisory Committee also. These recommendations will be accepted, I mean examined, and the case of each school will be considered on its merits and before the reopening of schools in Edavam, final orders will be passed on these recommendations. The Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri said that although there were these recommendations pending before the Government orders have not yet been passed. In fact I have been waiting to consider what ought to be the policy of Government in these matters. The

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